Instructions and questions for online lesson activities on war poetry

KS4 > Poetry > War poetry

How it works
This is one of my favourite Teachit resources. It relies on contemporary images and sound clips to take students right to the heart of World War I, then offers probing questions on particular poems which ensure they get to the heart of its literature. Whether explored in class (if all students have access to a computer) or set for private study, this resource is guaranteed to help students understand what it was like to be involved in the War, empathise with some of those who were there and discuss its writing with insight.

Try this!
Having completed the War Girls activity, ask students to develop their study of women in war creatively, e.g.

- hot seat one/some of the War Girls, focusing on the contrast between her previous role and her new one and her attitude towards her new role
- using details from Jesse Pope's poem, other poems and further reading, write a letter from a war girl to her fiancé at the front.

Try this!
Ask students to choose one of the images that appear in the Millions activity. They should print out the picture and stick it onto a large sheet of paper, then find as many quotations from writing about World War I (poems, diaries, fiction, contemporary accounts, etc.) as they can that they associate with the image and write them around the edge (perhaps with accompanying comments). The results could create a striking wall display and be useful in developing wider reading habits.

Try this!
Use the audio clips featured in the activity on Base Details as stimulus for an investigation into the songs of the war – both patriotic (including ‘Land of Hope and Glory’, featured) and the less patriotic ‘squaddie songs’ (‘The Old Barbed Wire’ is also featured). See http://www.firstworldwar.com/audio/index.htm for further material.

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Online lesson activities

Complete the activities either in your book or open another window and type your answers in Word.

1. Go to this website - you should see a series of small photographs. Then you click on an icon at the bottom of the page to take you to the next activity.

http://www.teachit.co.uk/custom_content/online/wargirls/index.htm

2. Go to this website and answer any questions you can. Click on different sections of the poem and the questions will appear on the right.

http://www.teachit.co.uk/custom_content/online/Millions/index.htm

3. Go to this website and answer the questions. Click on the last line in the poem and questions appear at the bottom. If you don’t know the meaning of any words then use an online dictionary.

http://www.teachit.co.uk/custom_content/online/Base/index.htm

General Internet Search

1. Find out four facts about Wilfred Owen that might be useful when understanding his poetry.

2. Do the same for Siegfried Sassoon.

3. Jessie Pope wrote war poetry such as ‘War Girls’ and ‘Who’s for the Game’. Find copies of these poems and others by her and comment on their tone and possible purpose.

4. Edward Thomas was a poet who died during the First World War. How old was he when he died?

5. Writer Eleanor Farjeon had a connection to Edward Thomas; what was it?

6. Use an online dictionary to find the meanings of these words. Start your own glossary in the back of your English book - or save it on the computer:

   Propaganda
   Patriotism
   Satire
   Sonnet
   Enjambement
   Idealised
   Cliché